

CASTLE RIVER

SUB-REGIONAL

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN



ANNUAL REPORT
1988-1989

August 1989



Southern Region,
Regional Resource Management Committee

CASTLE RIVER
SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT
1988/1989

Prepared by
Regional Resource Management Committee
Southern Region

August 1989

Publication No: I/289

International Standard Book Number: 0-86499-635-7

COPIES OF THIS REPORT MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

Regional Co-ordination Services
Bag 3014, Sun Centre Building
530 - 8 Street South
LETHBRIDGE
T1J 2J8

Telephone: (403) 381-5430

COPIES OF THIS REPORT MAY BE VIEWED AT:

ENERGY/FORESTRY, LANDS & WILDLIFE LIBRARY
9th Floor, South Tower, Petroleum Plaza
9945 - 108 Street, EDMONTON

INFORMATION CENTRE
ENERGY/FORESTRY, LANDS & WILDLIFE
Main Floor, Bramalea Building
9920 - 108 Street, EDMONTON

INFORMATION CENTRE
ENERGY/FORESTRY, LANDS & WILDLIFE
Main Floor, Britannia Building
703 - 6th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta

Fish and Wildlife Offices in:

CALGARY (#200 Sloan Square, 5920 - 1A St. S.W.)
PINCHER CREEK (Provincial Building, Main Street)
CARDSTON (Provincial Building, 576 Main Street)

Alberta Forest Service Offices in:

CALGARY: (8860 Bearspaw Dam Road N.W.)
BLAIRMORE (11901) - 19 Ave.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 ACCESS	2
2.1 Access Management Plan.	2
3.0 FISHERIES.	4
3.1 Habitat Development	4
3.1.1 Mitigation	4
3.1.2 Alberta Fish & Wildlife Division/Industry Joint Ventures	4
3.2 Stream and Lake Inventories	5
3.3 Fisheries Surveys	6
4.0 RANGE.	8
4.1 Range Management, Resource Management Areas (RMAs) A,B,C,D.	8
4.2 Stocking Levels, RMAs A,B,C,D	8
4.3 Range Management, RMA E	9
4.4 Range Improvement, RMA E.	9
5.0 RECREATION	11
5.1 Private Sector Developments and Commercial Operations	11
5.2 Backcountry Management.	11
5.3 Facilities and Opportunities.	12
6.0 TIMBER	13
6.1 Forest Protection	13
6.2 Reforestation	13
6.3 Timber Harvesting	14
7.0 WATERSHED.	15
7.1 Watershed Reclamation	15
7.2 Water Sampling.	15

8.0	WILDLIFE	.16
8.1	Elk Winter Range.	.16
8.2	Mountain Goats.	.16
8.3	Elk Population Monitoring	.17
8.4	Moose Population Monitoring	.17
9.0	ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES.	.19
9.1	Introduction.	.19
9.2	Alberta Energy.	.19
9.3	Alberta Forest Service.	.19
9.4	Alberta Fish and Wildlife	.20
9.4.1	Referrals.	.20
9.4.2	Proposed Wildlife Study.	.20
9.4.3	Wildlife Occurrences	.21
9.5	Public Lands.	.22
10.0	HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES/AMENDMENTS	.23
11.0	ACRONYMS/INITIALISMS.	.25

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document provides an overview of the resource management and development activities that have occurred under the Castle River Sub-regional Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) from April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989. Information in this report is current to that date only. Completion of this annual report fulfills one requirement of the approved implementation framework for integrated resource plans.

In describing plan implementation, the report deals alphabetically with the resource sectors identified in the IRP, summarizing for each the various activities of the involved government agencies. Only those resource sectors for which implementation activities have occurred are identified. In addition to addressing those activities that have taken place specifically as a result of the IRP, this report also contains a summary of the ongoing operational activities of the involved agencies in the IRP area.

2.0 ACCESS

2.1 Access Management Plan (AMP)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Project/Activity: | - Production of an access management plan providing operational level direction for the recreational use of on- and off-highway vehicles in the Castle River sub-region. |
| Participants: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The plan is being developed collectively in a workshop setting involving interested and affected parties. Government agencies, public interest groups, industry and local authorities are involved.- Plan development is being co-ordinated by the Alberta Forest Service (AFS).- There will be a general public review of the access management plan before any recommendations are acted upon. |
| Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: | - Finalize public involvement/participation process and communications plan; develop AMP with public interest groups, industry and government (co-operative basis); general public review and initiate approval process for developed AMP. |
| Results Achieved: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A background information package was completed in June/July 1988.- A communications plan and public involvement process was completed in June 1988.- Meetings with local planning authorities and provincial government agencies regarding the AMP background information package, process and roles were undertaken and completed in August 1988.- Identification of participants and the distribution of invitations was completed in September/October 1988.- An introductory participants' meeting was completed in October 1988.- A project working group was established in December 1988 (approximately 23 active participants and 10 referral participants).- Representatives of three groups (the Alberta Wilderness Association, Speak Up For Wildlife, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society) withdrew from the planning exercise in March 1989.- Seven workshop/meetings were held up to March 31, 1989 (approximately 20 active participants and 10 referral participants). |

Results Versus
Expectations:

- The June 1988 decision to involve public representatives directly in the process of developing the draft AMP placed additional time requirements on this planning exercise. Accordingly, it was not possible to complete the draft AMP and hold a general public review within the reporting period. Steady progress toward completion, however, has been made.

Anticipated Activities
1989-1990:

- Completion of the AMP by the project working group (including mapping and recommendations).
- Review by the Southern Regional Resource Management Committee (RRMC), local planning authorities and provincial government agencies.
- General public review (public meeting(s)).
- Submission for review and approval for implementation.

3.0 FISHERIES

3.1 Habitat Development

3.1.1 Mitigation

- Project/Activity: - As required, mitigation of adverse impacts on habitat resulting from industrial development or construction projects.
- Participants: - F&W in association with industrial companies and other government departments.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Develop and implement mitigation plans as necessary.
- Results Achieved: - Alberta Transportation and Utilities installed an upstream V-sill and a rock groyne, and readjusted instream boulders to improve trout cover in the Belly River, as mitigation for bridge works.
- Alberta Transportation and Utilities installed boulder clusters in Lynx Creek to improve instream trout cover, as mitigation for bridge works.
- Alberta Transportation and Utilities installed 57 boulders in 17 boulder clusters to improve instream trout habitat in the Castle River. This was done in mitigation of impacts resulting from construction of a new bridge on S.R. 507.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Ongoing mitigation projects as required.

3.1.2 Alberta Fish & Wildlife Division/Industry Joint Ventures

- Project/Activity: - Co-operative habitat development projects with industry and other jurisdictions.
- Participants: - F&W in association with various companies and authorities.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Prairie Bluff Lake Project will be completed and filled with water. An inspection will be made of the Ruby Lake outlet structure and repairs made if necessary.
- Results Achieved: - Construction work was completed on the Prairie Bluff Lake project. The lake was partially filled and stocked in August with 310 catchable rainbow trout.

Shortfall:

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - The Ruby Lake outlet structure built in 1987 will be inspected and repairs conducted if necessary.

3.2 Stream and Lake Inventories

Project/Activity: - Inventory of fish populations in streams and lakes.

Participants: - Fish and Wildlife.

Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Estimate fish populations in the West Castle River.
- Assess the golden trout populations in Rainy Ridge Lake.

Results Achieved: - Population estimates were made in the autumn on the West Castle River for sport fishery management purposes. There were 1822 cutthroat trout and 495 bull trout per kilometre in the sample section. (The estimate for bull trout is probably inaccurate because these fish were migrating at the time of the survey). Insufficient numbers of mountain whitefish were captured for valid population estimates. Only 7 percent of the cutthroat trout caught in 1988 were of legal size.
- An assessment of the golden trout population in Rainy Ridge Lake was carried out in August 1988. A preliminary population estimate of 532 fish was calculated for this small (2.4 ha), high mountain lake. Successful spawning was confirmed. Food base and fish growth appear to be satisfactory.
- Bathing Lake was test-netted with a gang of 3.8-8.9 cm gill nets in September 1988 to assess the stocked trout population of this small (0.6 ha) lake. Thirteen rainbow trout were caught in two hours. The largest fish weighed 810 gm.
- Beauvais Lake was test-netted with a standard gang of gill nets in September to determine the relative abundance of brown and rainbow trout. The nets caught 69 rainbow trout, 26 brown trout and 250 white suckers.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Conduct fish population estimates on Lost Creek prior to habitat improvement activities.
- Inspect potential commercial game fish farm locations on Cottonwood Creek.

- Assess the rainbow trout population in Mami Lake following two years of stocking larger fish.
- Attempt to transplant golden trout from Rainy Ridge Lake to Ruby Lake.
- Complete a lake inventory survey on Bathing Lake.
- Repeat population estimates of fish in a sample section of the West Castle River.

3.3 Fisheries Surveys

- Project/Activity: - To provide direction for future species management, habitat protection and development strategies.
- Participants: - F&W
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Collect creel data whenever possible from lakes and streams within the Castle River IRP boundaries.
- Results Achieved: - Creel data was collected when possible by Fish and Wildlife Division and Recreation and Parks Department staff at various key locations in the Castle River IRP area.

1. Major Lakes - Creel data were collected from three main lakes in the Castle River IRP area. The following table summarizes the data collected in 1988.

Table 1. Angler Catch/Use Data. Castle River IRP 1988

Lake	No. of Census Days	No. of Anglers Present	No. of Anglers Interviewed	Total Hours Fished	Total RB Trout Caught	CUE (fish/hr.)	Brown Trout Caught	C U E
Beavermines	58	1404	695	1621.3	665	0.41	-	-
Beauvais	24	507	293	597.5	187	0.31	13	0.02
Mami	43	543	419	1115.7	416	0.37	-	-

2. Streams - Creel data were collected by Fish and Wildlife staff on a number of streams located in the Castle River IRP boundary: Table 2 summarizes these data for 1988.

Table 2. Angler catch/use data in streams in the Castle River IRP area - 1988

Streams	No. of Census Days	No. of Anglers Interviewed	Total Hours Fished	Rainbow Trout Caught	(CUE)	Cutthroat Trout Caught	(CUE)	Whitefish Caught	(CUE)	Bull Trout Caught	(CUE)
Crowsnest River	75	454	715	685	(0.96)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carbondale River	7	23	32.5	-	-	16	(0.49)	15	(0.46)	-	-
Castle River	22	111	124.5	3	(0.02)	36	(0.29)	-	-	2	(0.01)
Lost Creek	2	5	6.5	-	-	2	(0.31)	-	-	1	(0.15)
Lynn Creek	10	29	25.5	-	-	38	(1.49)	-	-	-	-
Westcastle River	14	48	74	-	-	42	(0.57)	-	-	-	-

55% of the cutthroat were returned, presumably because they were below the minimum size limit.

3. High Mountain Lakes - A new volunteer creel box was erected at Bovin Lake. This box and the two others at Rainy Ridge Lake on the trail to Barnaby, Upper and Lower Southfork lakes were maintained by helicopter during 1988. Creel data have yet to be analyzed.

Creel returns from 1987 indicated that 101 people filled out cards at the Barnaby/Southfork location, but only 9 anglers reported at the Rainy Ridge site. There were 33 golden trout reported caught at the former locations and 19 golden trout from Rainy Ridge Lake.

Anticipated Activities - Collect creel data whenever possible from lakes 1987-1990:
and streams within the Castle River IRP boundaries.

4.0 RANGE

4.1 Range Management, Resource Management Areas (RMAs) A,B,C,D

- Project/Activity:
- Manage domestic livestock to achieve uniform forage use.
 - Maintain healthy range condition, intensify range management practices.
 - Identify areas suitable for forage production on a sustained yield basis.
 - Note areas critical for the maintenance of wildlife in the area.
- Participants:
- AFS lead. Consultation with F&W and Lands.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989:
- Conduct range inventory of cutblocks in the Gladstone Creek area.
- Results Achieved:
- Range inventory of cutblock in the Gladstone Creek area was completed.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Continue to implement existing range management plans to achieve the identified project/activity objectives.
 - Analyze data received from Gladstone Creek areas range inventory to determine the utilization level by domestic livestock in that area.

4.2 Stocking Levels, RMAs A,B,C & D

- Project Activity:
- Maintain 1977 stocking levels.
- Participants:
- AFS lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989:
- Monitor stocking rates and assess range condition.
- Results Achieved:
- Inspection and monitoring of conditions on grazing allotments was conducted by district staff.
 - 38 permits were issued, accounting for 4762 animal unit months.
 - A range improvement plan was developed for the Southend allotment.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Identify sites suitable for range improvement.
 - Monitor stocking rates and assess range conditions.
 - Permit issuance.

4.3 Range Management, RMA E

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Project/Activity: | - Periodic lease inspections and renewals as required. |
| Participants: | - Lands lead. Consultation with F&W and AFS as required. |
| Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: | - Two grazing lease renewal applications and 18 grazing lease/permit periodic inspections are projected. |
| Results Achieved: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- An additional grazing lease renewal application was received in late 1988. This brought the number of renewal applications to three. Staff evaluated past lease management practices and when necessary, requested changes to ensure proper management of the range resource.- One periodic inspection of a grazing lease was undertaken. Staff evaluated range conditions and discussed the present management practices with the lessee. |
| Shortfall: | - Seventeen grazing lease/permit periodic inspections were not completed by the staff due to a reallocation of time to other projects. |
| Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: | - Six grazing lease renewals and seven periodic inspections are projected. |

4.4 Range Improvement, RMA E

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Project/Activity: | - Undertaking a wide variety of range improvement projects such as brushing, controlling regrowth and pasture seeding. |
| Participants: | - Lands lead. Consultation with F&W and AFS. |
| Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: | - A continuation of range improvement activities on nine leases. Projects will include brushing, spraying and seeding, and burning and repiling of windrows. |
| Results Achieved: | - Nine range improvement activities were identified for the 1988 field season. Two applications were cancelled due to changes in funding under the range improvement program. Of the remaining seven projects, three projects for seeding, repiling of windrows and spraying of regrowth were completed. |

Anticipated Activities
1989-1990:

- A continuation of range improvement activities on the remaining four grazing leases. Projects will include herbicide application to control aspen regrowth, pasture seeding and repiling of windrows.

5.0 RECREATION

5.1 Private Sector Developments And Commercial Operations

- Project/Activity: - Reviewing applications and monitoring commercial developments, operations and services consistent with the recreation intent of the area.
- Participants: - AFS lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - To facilitate future opportunities for private sector involvement in development and operations of facilities and services.
- Monitor existing operations.
- Results Achieved: - Three Commercial Trail Riding permits were issued.
- Inspections of operator camps were conducted.
- No other private sector development occurred.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Monitor pending expansion of facilities and operations at the Westcastle ski area.
- Monitor existing commercial operations.

5.2 Backcountry Management

- Project/Activity: - Monitoring Backcountry use:
 - (1) to ensure use/operations are carried out as per provincial regulations and policy;
 - (2) to identify trails and campsites where maintenance or mitigation measures are required; and
 - (3) to meet users in the field and establish use levels and patterns.
- Participants: - AFS lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Development and implementation of a more formal backcountry patrol program.
- Continuation of monitoring and clean-up program.
- Results Achieved: - Approximately three man-weeks were devoted to trail maintenance and campsite clean-up.
- Day patrols were conducted as time and available resources permitted.
- Results versus Expectations: - The northern portion of the Bow-Crow Forest was assigned higher priority for establishment of a backcountry patrol program than the southern districts. Resource commitments to other

recreation program components prevented establishment of the patrol program during the reporting period.

- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Development of a formal backcountry patrol program.
 - Continuation of trail maintenance and campsite clean-up.
 - Initiate inventory and mapping of backcountry trails and campsites.

5.3 Facilities And Opportunities

- Project/Activity:
- Increase recreational opportunities by providing a wide range of high quality, accessible and affordable facilities.

- Participants:
- AFS lead.

- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989:
- Completion of the Syncline Group Camp upgrading.
 - Contingent on funding availability, continuation of current levels of service and maintenance to ensure provincial standards are maintained at designated facilities.

- Results Achieved:
- Upgrade of both of the Syncline group camps was completed.
 - All AFS recreation areas and trail systems were opened and operated to provincial standards.

- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Contingent on funding availability, continuation of service and maintenance to ensure provincial standards are maintained at AFS-designated facilities.
 - The north loop of the Castle River Falls Forest Recreation Area will be operated as a group camp on a trial basis.

6.0 TIMBER

6.1 Forest Protection

- Project/Activity: - Protecting the forest from fire, insects and disease.
- Participants: - AFS lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Adherence to a comprehensive fire management plan.
- Results Achieved: - Three fires were suppressed:
- DB6-9-88; 1.5 ha; log deck destroyed (timber operations)
 - DB6-10-88; spot (0.1 ha)
 - DB6-21-88; 0.9 ha; escaped brush fire (December 1988)
- Mountain pine beetle: infestation stagnant/endemic; no treatment was required.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Adherence to a comprehensive fire management plan.

6.2 Reforestation

- Project/Activity: - Reforestation of lands in the sustained yield timber base.
- Participant: - AFS lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Ongoing monitoring of provenance trial sites.
1. Free-to-grow surveys: 380.2 ha.
 2. Regeneration surveys: 879.4 ha.
 3. Planting: 336.8 ha (253300 trees).
 4. Genetics: tree improvement program - discing and planting at the Castle River site (about 400 m from the junction of the Castle River and Beaver Mines access roads).
- Results Achieved: - Free-to-grow surveys: to assess the success of long-term reforestation efforts, surveys were undertaken on 380.2 ha to determine if reforested species have outcompeted surrounding vegetation.
- Regeneration surveys: undertaken on 533.6 ha.
 - Planting: 99.2 ha were planted (79933 trees).

- Genetics: work continued at the genetics testing site in the Castle River area (LSD 1,22-5-3-W5M). For reforestation purposes, the relative performance of Douglas fir was tested and compared with spruce and pine species under drought-prone conditions. Work also continued on the white spruce provenance trial to determine tolerance limits for the geographic movement of seedlots for reforestation planning.
- Results versus Expectations:
- Planting: requested growing stock was not available so the size of the planting project had to be reduced.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Free-to-grow surveys: 230.6 ha.
 - Regeneration surveys: 833.3 ha.
 - Planting: 204 ha (174200 trees).
 - Ongoing maintenance of the genetics testing site. Survival assessment of the Douglas fir test.

6.3 Timber Harvesting

- Project/Activity:
- Integrating logging with other land use activities through forest management plans.
 - Using landscape logging and other aesthetic harvesting practices as appropriate.
- Participant:
- AFS lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989:
- No cruising programs are anticipated.
 - It is expected that about the same number of timber permits will be issued as for the 1987-1988 period. (25 Local Timber Permits and 187 Forest Products Permits.)
- Results Achieved:
- 25 Local Timber Permits were issued (2000 m³ of wood). A total of 2004 Forest Products Permits were issued (e.g., Christmas trees, transplants, posts and poles, firewood)
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Issuance of Local Timber Permits and Forest Products Permits.
 - No cruising programs are anticipated.
 - No further activity is planned until 1991.

7.0 WATERSHED

7.1 Watershed Reclamation

- Project/Activity:
- Maintaining water quality.
 - Minimizing upland soil erosion and stream sedimentation.
- Participants:
- AFS lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989:
- A reclamation program will be developed in conjunction with F&W and implemented following approval of the access management plan.
- Results Achieved:
- No reclamation work was undertaken.
- Results Versus Expectations:
- Completion of the access management plan is a prerequisite to evaluating priorities and undertaking reclamation work.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- A joint AFS/F&W inventory of sites requiring reclamation work will commence in 1989.
 - Full reclamation of a mineral exploration trail located in prime protection and critical wildlife zones on Spionkop Ridge will be undertaken, providing this is publicly acceptable.

7.2 Water Sampling

- Project/Activity:
- Evaluating the effectiveness of ground rules for controlling stream sedimentation.
 - Identification of areas needing remedial erosion control in salvaged areas damaged by mountain pine beetle.
- Participants:
- AFS lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989:
- In the immediate future, there will be no further monitoring in the Castle River area except in the Goat Creek area. The Gladstone Valley results will be analyzed and a report completed by June 1988.
- Results Achieved:
- Low intensity, suspended non-point sediment sampling continued on Goat Creek.
 - The Gladstone Creek water quality analysis and report was completed.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990:
- Continued monitoring of Goat Creek.
 - Monitor for coliform/faecal coliform contamination in one to four streams possibly affected by grazing activity (page 83, RMA E).

8.0 WILDLIFE

8.1 Elk Winter Range

- Project/Activity: - Evaluation of the winter range used by the Castle-Carbondale elk herd.
- Participants: - F&W lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - Undertake a detailed examination of forage utilization by livestock and elk on several key elk winter ranges on Crown lands located adjacent to and within the forest reserve.
- Results Achieved: - Field monitoring efforts were intensified during the spring of 1988 with assistance provided by Public Lands Division staff.
- Preliminary results indicate substantially reduced use of forage by summer domestic grazing in 1988 compared to past forage use patterns. A water shortage associated with drought conditions appears to have restricted livestock use of ridge tops, and consequently provided for a much improved carryover of forage for wintering elk.
- Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - A detailed assessment of range conditions will continue with forage utilization examinations scheduled to be completed during the spring and fall of 1989.

8.2 Mountain Goats

- Project Activity: - Determination of the status of mountain goats south of Highway #3.
- Participants: - F&W lead.
- Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Summer count of mountain goats.
- Results Achieved: - An aerial survey was implemented during mid-August 1988 to obtain current information on the status of the Continental Divide goat population south of Highway #3. Only a portion of the areas scheduled to be surveyed was completed because of unsuitable weather conditions and limited opportunity to use a man-up helicopter. A survey of goat management areas Q and C was completed (North Kootenay Pass-Middle Kootenay Pass), with a total of 38 goats being observed.

The 1988 count of 38 goats was higher than the 1987 count of 31 goats, but considerably lower than maximum counts of 60-70 goats that have been obtained on three occasions since 1980. Based on two consecutive low counts, there is concern that a major decline in the goat population has occurred.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - A goat population monitoring program is proposed for 1989 to continue evaluation of the situation.

8.3 Elk Population Monitoring

Project/Activity: - Determination of the status of the Castle-Carbondale elk herd.

Participants: - F&W lead.

Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Conduct an aerial census of the Castle-Carbondale elk population to obtain current status information with respect to management goals.

Results Achieved: - During early February 1989, a survey of the Castle-carbondale elk population was completed. Approximately 800 elk were counted within the planning area. The survey determined that elk numbers are near prescribed goals and management actions should be directed towards maintaining a stable population.

Anticipated Activities 1989-1990: - The annual census will be scheduled for 1989-1990.

8.4 Moose Population Monitoring

Project/Activity: - Determination of the status of the foothill-mountain moose population.

Participants: - F&W lead.

Anticipated Activities 1988-1989: - Conduct an aerial census of the southern foothill moose population south of Highway 3 to obtain information on current status with respect to management goals.

Results Achieved: - During early February 1989, the Southern foothill moose survey was completed. Information obtained from the survey (moose densities averaged 1.8 per square mile of range) indicates the moose population south of Highway

#3 has increased significantly from the level documented in 1983-1984, when the most recent survey was completed. Management efforts will be directed towards a further modest population increase to achieve prescribed goals.

Anticipated Activities
1990-1991:

- The biannual population monitoring program will again be scheduled for 1990-1991.

9.0 ONGOING ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

9.1 Introduction

Day-to-day administrative and management activities often take place that are not specifically related to the Castle River IRP. The IRP, nevertheless, constitutes the framework within which this activity takes place. In some cases, such as with the review of disposition applications and other referrals, the link with the IRP may be quite explicit. Accordingly, a summary of ongoing divisional operation activities is included below.

9.2 Alberta Energy

Two minerals-related contingencies arose during the reporting period. They are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Whitney Creek/
Beaver Mines: | - Natural gas well proposals by Shell Oil at Whitney Creek and by Amoco Canada at Beaver Mines were the subject of public concern. Approval for the wells was given only after the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) held public hearings. The Castle River IRP includes provision for natural gas activity in both areas. |
| Crowsnest gold: | - Numerous applications have been made for Metallic Minerals Exploration permits in the northern part of the planning area following announcement of gold values in some volcanic outcrops of the Crowsnest Formation. Any field exploration will be conducted in accordance with direction provided in the IRP. |

9.3 Alberta Forest Service

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Activity: | - Ensuring that land use activities are integrated and conform with the management intent for the Castle River planning area. |
| Anticipated Activities
1988-1989: | - Increased activity along the easterly portion of the RMA, ranging from geophysical operations to resource development activities (Mineral Surface Leases, Licenses of Occupation, Pipeline Agreements). |

Results Achieved:

Number and Type of Forest Land Use Referrals:

5 - Mineral Surface Leases
3 - Licenses of Occupation
2 - Pipeline Agreements
1 - Consultative/Protective Notation
4 - Geophysicals
1 - Miscellaneous Permit
4 - Easements
3 - Surface Material Licenses/Leases
=====

23 TOTAL REFERRALS

**Results Versus
Expectations:**

- There was less petroleum and natural gas activity than anticipated, resulting in fewer referrals than in the previous fiscal year.

**Anticipated Activities
1989-1990:**

- Approval, approval with conditions, or rejection of land use disposition applications.

9.4 Alberta Fish And Wildlife

9.4.1 Referrals

Number and Type of Land Use Referrals

4 - Mineral Surface Leases
1 - Licence of Occupation
3 - Pipeline Agreements
4 - Geophysicals
1 - Timber harvesting
1 - Surface Materials Exploration
4 - Quarriable Mineral Leases
3 - Easements
1 - Miscellaneous Permit
1 - D-reservation
2 - Water Resources Permits
3 - Alberta Transportation & Utilities
2 - Development and Reclamation
1 - Subdivision
1 - AGT
1 - Recreation Leases
8 - Metallic Mineral Exploration
=====

41 TOTAL REFERRALS

9.4.2 Proposed Wildlife Study

An elk study proposal is being developed by Luigi E. Morgantini (Department of Forest Science, University of Alberta) to study the ecology,

movements and distribution of elk southwest of Pincher Creek by providing baseline data on the elk that range between the Castle-Carbondale area and South Drywood Creek. The proposal is being supported by the Fish and Wildlife Division.

The objectives of the proposed study are as follows:

1. to identify local herds, their sizes and productivity;
2. to describe seasonal movements and distribution;
3. to assess seasonal habitat availability, food habits and forage quality;
4. to shed light on seasonal and level of use of the Forest Reserve as it might be affected by forage availability, weather activities, industrial development, forest logging, vehicular access and cattle grazing; and
5. to provide recommendations for habitat improvement to reduce depredation problems, potential industrial development impacts and maintain/increase elk numbers.

9.4.3 Wildlife Occurrences

Fish and Wildlife responded to a number of wildlife support occurrences* during the reporting period as follows:

Number and Type of Wildlife Support Occurrences

6	- Beaver
3	- Request Fencing
1	- Elk - haystack
1	- Deer - haystack
2	- Deer - garden
1	- Packrat
6	- Coyote Kill
1	- Wolf Kill
1	- Grizzly Bear - getting into cabin
1	- Grizzly Bear - possible problem
2	- Grizzly Bear - sighting
2	- Black Bear - in yard
1	- Black Bear - shot bearing tag
1	- Black Bear - destroying beehives
11	- Road Kills
6	- Diseased and Wounded Animals
1	- Diseased and Wounded Bird
=====	
46	TOTAL REFERRALS

* Any wildlife situation requiring action by a Fish and Wildlife officer.

9.5 Public Lands

The following administrative duties were carried out in RMA-E:

- 1 - Request for land exchange
- 3 - Grazing lease renewal applications
- 1 - Grazing lease/permit periodic inspections
- 7 - Range improvement projects
- 4 - Miscellaneous lease applications
- 1 - Mineral surface lease applications/inspections
- 4 - Pipeline agreements/inspections

=====

21 TOTAL REFERRALS

10.0 HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES/AMENDMENTS

A single request for a change to the Castle River IRP was dealt with by the RRMC. Page references refer to the Castle River Sub-Regional IRP (Alberta Energy and Natural Resources 1985, Edmonton).

- Item: - Table of Compatible Activities (Table 2, p. 21)
- Request: - Revise the table to clarify "serviced camping". The Eastern Slopes Policy allows serviced camping in Zone 2, but not "intensive recreation". Most definitions of "serviced camping" would imply "intensive recreation".
- Change Requested By: - Alberta Recreation and Parks.
- Response: - Term "auto access camping" substituted for "serviced camping" (see revised table, overleaf).
- Gl #7, p 53: Rewritten from:
" 'Serviced camping' will be permitted only during summer months because of the area's importance as critical winter habitat for elk and other ungulates".
to:
"Auto-access camping will be permitted only during summer months because of the area's importance as critical winter habitat for elk and other ungulates".
- Kind of Change: - Housekeeping change to facilitate plan interpretation. The intent of the plan is clarified, but not changed.
- Rationale: - Auto access camping more clearly and accurately states the intent for the area.

COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES BY LAND USE ZONE

ACTIVITY	ZONE							
	1 PRIME PROTECTION	2 CRITICAL WILDLIFE	3 SPECIAL USE	4 GENERAL RECREATION	5 MULTIPLE USE	6 AGRICULTURE	7 INDUSTRIAL	8 FACILITY
Non-motorized recreation	■	■	□	■	■	■	□	■
Fishing	■	■	□	■	■	■	□	■
Hunting	■	■	□	□	■	■	□	■
Scientific study	■	□	□	□	■	■	□	■
Trapping	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Trails, non-motorized	□	□	□	■	■	■	■	■
Transportation and utility corridors	□	□	□	□	■	■	□	■
Primitive camping	□	□	□	■	■	■	■	■
Intensive recreation	□	■	□	■	■	■	■	■
Off-highway vehicle activity	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Logging	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Domestic grazing	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Petroleum and natural gas exploration and development	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Coal exploration	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Coal development	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Mineral exploration and development	■	□	□	□	■	■	■	■
Auto-access camping *	■	□	□	■	■	■	■	■
Commercial development	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	■
Industrial development	■	■	□	■	■	■	■	■
Residential subdivisions	■	■	□	□	□	■	□	■
Cultivation	■	■	□	■	□	■	□	□

■ Compatible Use -Uses that are considered to be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under normal guidelines and land use regulations.

□ Permitted Use -Uses that may be compatible with the intent of a land use zone under certain circumstances and under special conditions and controls where necessary.

× Not-Permitted Use -Uses that are not considered to be compatible with the intent or capabilities of a land use zone.

These activities are only representative of the range of activities that occur in the Eastern Slopes. For these and any other activities, the possibility of whether they should or should not take place in a particular area must always be measured against the fundamental management intentions for that zone. Since economic opportunities are not all known in advance, site-specific developments may be considered in any zone.

* Adjusted from "A Policy for Resource Management for the Eastern Slopes-Revised 1984"

11.0 ACRONYMS/INITIALISMS

The following acronyms/initialisms are used in this report:

AFS	Alberta Forest Service (a division of Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife)
AMP	Access Management Plan
CUE	Catch per unit effort (numbers of fish caught per hour)
ERCB	Energy Resource Conservation Board
F&W	Fish & Wildlife (a division of Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife)
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
Lands	Public Lands (a division of Forestry, Lands & Wildlife)
RB	Rainbow Trout
RRMC	Regional Resource Management Committee
RMA	Resource Management Area